



[www:pwsacd.org](http://www.pwsacd.org)

Late January 2017 Edition

Watershed Newsletter

Water Quality Monitoring Program Milestone in Prince William County

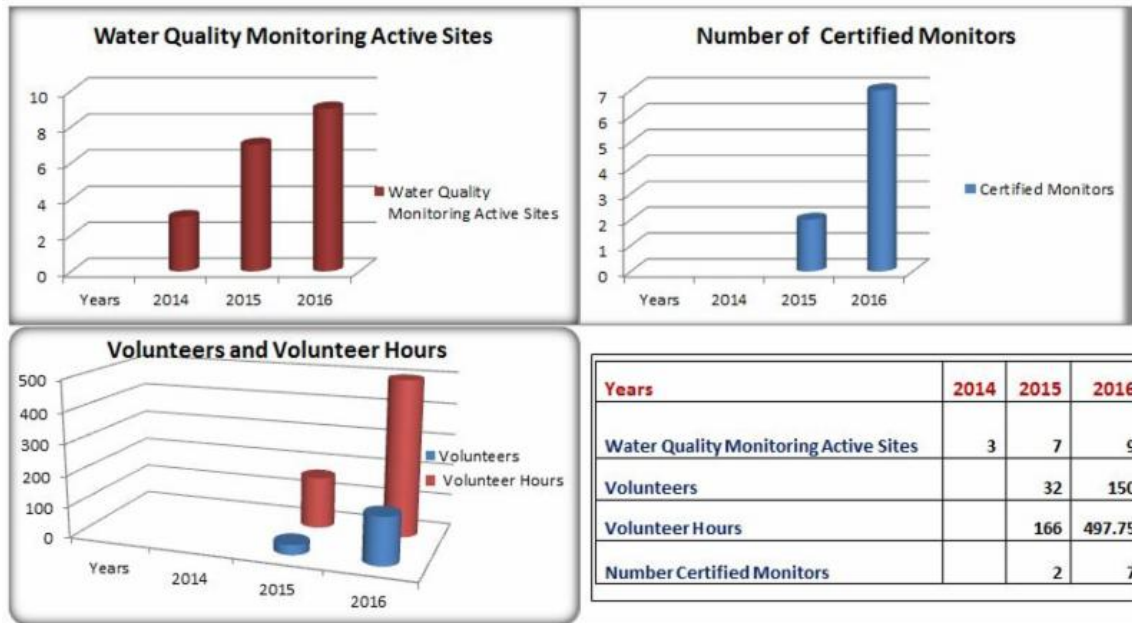
The Water Quality Monitoring (WQM) program collects biological and chemical data from Prince William County local streams. This program officially started under the Soil and Water Conservation District in March 2015 with three pioneer benthic macro invertebrate monitoring sites. Today there are nine active monitoring sites. Seven more certified monitors have been added to the District under the program.

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) uses the data collected to close up its data gaps for the hundreds of miles of streams in Virginia it cannot cover.

The program promotes environmental awareness around local streams through community involvement and educates residents on water related issues like pollution. It helps to identify problem areas along waterways and keep track of water quality data within the District. Students also participate in the program for their personal projects and to accumulate service hours.

This year (2017), additional parameters like chlorine, nitrate, phosphate and coliform have been added to the

data collected.



Milestone of the Water Quality Monitoring Program from 2015

Waterways trash cleanup and monitoring:

In 2016, approximately 21,000 pounds (almost 11 tons) of trash was collected from Prince William County waterways. 1063 volunteers put in 3213 hours of their volunteer time for this great achievement.

Thank You

For your support and stewardship!

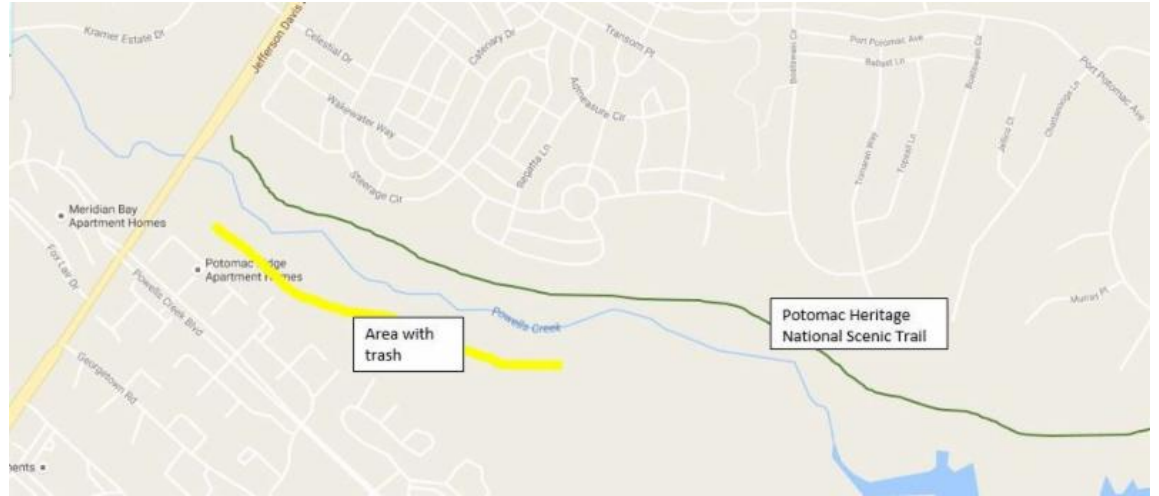
We look forward to achieving even more this Year (2017).



BIG STREAM CLEANUP!

POWELLS CREEK

Saturday, February 25 at 9 a.m (March 4- Rain date)



Residents of Prince William County especially those living around the Powells Creek are all invited to come out en mass for a big stream stewardship and awareness campaign on trash and littering around local streams. Come give a treat to the beautiful Powells Creek which is part of the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail.

This event has been organized by the Prince William Trails and Streams Collation (PWTSC) in collaborations with PW Soil and Water Conservation District (PWSWCD), Woodbridge Potomac Communities Civics Association (WPCCA), PW County Government (*Public Works, Parks and REC , Neighborhood Services*) just to name a few.

Volunteers will assemble at Powells Creek Blvd (1657 Nanticoke Way, Woodbridge VA 22191).

To register :

<http://www.pwtsc.org/event/powells-creek-cleanup-saturday-february-25-2017/>

For more information c

ontact:

Neil Nelson at neil.nelson@pwtsc.org or call 703-232-4037

Please dress for the weather. Cleanup supplies will be provided.

Some Dates

February 4- Floatable Monitoring at Manassas Forge Drive in Manassas

February 11- Floatable Monitoring at Cornice Place, Lake Ridge -Woodbridge

February 25- Powells Creek Cleanup at 9 a.m.

February 25 Water Quality Monitoring - Young's Branch-Manassas Battlefield @ 10 am

March 4-Virginia Native Plant Society 2017 Workshop -University of Richmond

March 7- Horse Farm Stewardship Program @ MARE Center (PWSWCD & VCE)

March 25- Youth Ambassadors Conference -PWC Public Works Department

March 27-May 8; Drinking Water clinic (PW Virginia Cooperative Extension)

April 1- National Parks Day (PWC Public Works Department)

April 1- Steps for a Greener Lawn -PW Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE)

April 4- Horse Farm Stewardship program @MARE Center (PWSWCD & VCE)

April 8- 29th Annual Potomac River Watershed Cleanup (Alice Ferguson Foundation)

April 22 - Upper Occoquan River Cleanup

May 1- Horse Farm Stewardship program. Programs every Monday for 6 weeks (PWSWCD & VCE)

May 13- Workday - Lake Ridge Trail

May 19- Bike to Work Day

June 3- National Trails Day

June 5-11: Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week

June 19-24 - Holiday Lake Forest Camp (click)

July 9-15 Youth Conservation Camp (click)

August 6- Tour of Prince William bike event

September 30- Public Lands Day

September-October: Clean Virginia Waterways- (Longwood University Campaign)

October 10,11 & 12 - Farm Field Days

November 4- Veteran's Park/ Marumsco Creek Cleanup

December 2/9 -Jingle Bell Run

All year through-Horticulture and Environmental education-VCE-(call: 703-792-7747)

Need help with erosion and run-off control on your private property?

Contact the District for VCAP Assistance

Call 571-379-7514 or visit: <http://vaswcd/vcap>

How can you help Prince William County Waterways to be trash free?

To check cleanup programs in your neighborhood please, click [here](#).

Prince William Soil and Water Conservation District is working together with other organizations to reduce the amount of trash in waterways within the District. The District will help provide cleanup supplies to residents who would like to make an impact in the communities at no cost. Participating groups will receive an Adopt-A-Stream sign in recognition of their stewardship. For more information write to waterquality@pwsacd.org.

You can also register your local events with the [Trash Free Potomac network](#)



Water Quality Programs Stream Cleanup Programs



The District promotes 4 options for cleaning streams:



*Are you ready for a stream cleanup in the Spring?
Contact the District for your free cleanup supplies.*

1. **Adopt-A-Stream Program** - clean at least once a year for a two year commitment (Any time)
2. **Potomac River Watershed Cleanup** (Alice Ferguson Foundation)- one-time cleanup
3. **International Coastal Cleanup** (Clean VA Waterways) -one-time cleanup (September- October)
4. **Earth Team Volunteer Cleanup** - one time cleanup(Any time)

For some cleanup sites in your neighborhood, click [here](#)

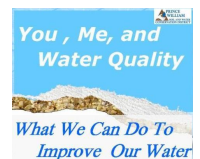
On how to get started with any of the stream cleanup programs or have any questions about which of the 4 options is best for you, please contact: waterquality@pwsacd.org.

Water Quality Monitoring Some Answers to your Questions

How often can a site be monitored?

Not more than 4 times in a year (quarterly).

What does it take to become certified?



1. Be able to [identify the critters](#).
 2. Be able to properly [demonstrate the field protocol](#) in data collection.
- Both 1 and 2 are easy and open book!

Must I be a certified stream monitor?

No, you can help the existing monitoring teams, too! But DEQ only accepts data that comes from certified stream monitors.

What is recommended before taking the certification test?

Take part in at least 2-3 stream monitoring events before sitting for the certification test.

Floatable Monitoring Program

Assess and trace trash that load into streams to reduce non-point source pollutant from urbanized and industrialized areas. This program is related to the County's Municipal Separate Storm Sewers (MS4) permit.



Volunteers are recommended to dress in rain boots and ready to get their feet wet.

The District will provide cleanup supplies (grabbers, gloves, vests and trash bags).
RSVP is recommended. Contact: waterquality@pwswed.org

Watch Video : [Our Plastic Society](#)

Prince William County Water Quality Directory: Please Click [HERE](#)

Recycling in Prince William County: Please Click [Here](#)



WHATS COMING UP UNDER THE DISTRICT

February 4 : Floatable monitoring : Manassas Forge Dr. - Signal Hill Road 10 a.m.

February 11: Floatable monitoring - Cornice Place- Lake Ridge in Woodbridge -10 a.m.

February 25: Powells Creek Cleanup 9 a.m- Noon (Rain date March 4)

February 25: Water Quality Monitoring -Youngs Branch Manassas Battlefield 10 a.m.

March 7: Horse Farm Stewardship Program @ MARE Center -10 a.m.

March 25: Youth Ambassadors Conference -"Sustainable Practices for Managing Trash"

March 27 -May 8: Drinking Water Clinic (Sample drop off and results interpretation meeting)
call 703-792-7747 or visit www.wellwater.bse.vt.edu/clinic for more.

May 20: Rain Barrels pick up at Dumfries Town Hall (Place your order for a barrel now with the District)



Water Quality Monitoring Events

Saturday, February 4

Floatable Monitoring at Manassas Forge Dr -Signal Hill Road Manassas

Time: 10am

RSVP to Veronica Tangiri: waterquality@pwsacd.org

Saturday, February 11

Floatable Monitoring at Cornice Place -Lake Ridge in Woodbridge

Time: 10am

RSVP to Veronica Tangiri: waterquality@pwsacd.org

Saturday, Febraary 25

Stream Cleanup at Powells Creek

Time: 9am - 12 noon.

To register visit:

<http://www.pwtsc.org/event/powells-creek-cleanup-saturday-february-25-2017/>

For more information c ontact: Neil Nelson at neil.nelson@pwtsc.org or call 703-232-4037

Saturday, February 25

Water Quality Monitoring: Youngs Branch -Bull Run

Time: 10 am - 12.30 p.m.

Location: Manassas Battlefield

Join the Audubon Naturalist Group in monitoring this historic monitoring site. (Spots are limited).

For more information and RSVP, contact Stephanie Martin: stephmartin60@aol.com

-Dominion will pay for public water hook-ups for Prince William residents concerned about coal ash... [read more here](#)

[-Give DEQ your comments on coal ash disposal \(read more here\)](#)

- Incorporating Citizen Science Into EPA's National Environmental Work

One of the challenges of running a citizen science program like stream monitoring is that one can never be entirely sure what the program's impact will be. To that end, an EPA advisory body recently submitted a report to agency leadership recommending that the EPA proactively and fully integrate citizen science into its work, embrace it as a core tenet of environmental protection, and use citizen science data directly. The full report can be [found online](#). Please direct comments to Green.Eugene@epa.gov and citizenscience@epa.gov.



Watershed Education, Events and Opportunities

Do you know that Virginia Naturally is your gateway to statewide environmental education? Visit: [Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation](#).

Virginia Governor's Executive Order on "Establishing the Virginia Environmental Literacy Challenge." For more information Click [here](#) or [visit](#) .

District Conservation Capsule To-Go season.

Our capsules are ready to go, so reserve early, as they are first come, first served. You may reserve capsules now for anytime during the school year. For your reservations, please visit: <http://www.pswcd.org/educators.html> or contact:education@pswcd.org

Horse Farm Stewardship Program

[March 7- Kick-off date](#)

Location: [MARE Center](#)

This training is sponsored by the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) and offered by the District in collaboration with the Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE). This extensive training will help horse farmers to learn more about managing their horses with the application of some sustainable techniques that are environmentally friendly. Farmers will also be recognized by DCR after taking the training.

For more information please contact **Mike Miller** at conservation@pswcd.org or call [571 379 7514](tel:5713797514).

Rain Barrels for Prince William Residents- Order before May 20th

The Prince William Soil & Water Conservation District (PSWCD) is currently taking orders for rain barrels. \$75.00 each or \$140.00 for two with limited quantity available. Reservation is required to get a rain barrel at this price!

Barrel pick up date- : [May 20th](#)

Pick up address: [Dumfries Town Hall, 17755 Main Street , Dumfries VA.](#)

Importance of Rain barrels: Rain barrels help to save water cost during the summer months for lawns and gardens watering. The collected rainwater also helps to reduce the volume of rainwater from impervious surfaces which contribute to non-point source pollution within the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.

The barrels are made of 90% recycled material and made in the United States.

To reserve your barrel today contact **Alice Markiewicz** at education@pswcd.org or sending a check payable to **PWSWCD** (*Address the check to: 8850 Rixlew Lane Manassas VA 20109*).

Awards and Scholarships

2017 Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Scholarships

Stay tuned for more information with the District

Apprentice Ecologist Scholarship

Application Deadlines: December 31, Annually

The Apprentice Ecologist Initiative has engaged tens of thousands of young volunteers (kids, teens, and college-age youth) from around the world in environmental cleanup and conservation projects since 1999. Three (3) scholarships will be awarded annually to the authors of the three best Apprentice Ecologist essays. Applicants should embody the spirit of the Apprentice Ecologist Initiative. For more information, Visit:http://www.wildernessproject.org/volunteer_apprentice_ecologist

Plants and Landscape Events

2017 Horticulture Education with VCE

Basics of Gardening

Saturdays, Feb. 11, Feb. 18, Feb. 25 and Snow date March 11.

Time: 1.00pm -4.00pm

Location: Potomac Community Library, 2201 Opitz Blvd., Woodbridge VA 22191

Come discover the science of gardening, plant culture, pest and disease solutions. This series will focus on research-based knowledge of plant processes, problem avoidance, and the most effective control strategies.

Free training but Space is limited.

To registered call [703-792-7747](tel:703-792-7747) or email master_gardener@pwcgov.org

Sustainable Vegetable Gardening Series

Saturdays, March.18, March 25

Time: 10.30am -1.00pm

Location: Central Community Library-8601 Mathis Avenue Manassas, VA 20110

These classes will cover the essential topics for sustainable vegetable gardening.

Visit www.pwcgov.org/grow for class details.

Free training but Space is limited.

To registered call [703-792-7747](tel:703-792-7747) or email master_gardener@pwcgov.org

Ask a Master Gardener Your Gardening Questions

April 8, 15, 22 & 29. May 6 & 20

Time: 10.00am -1.00pm

Location: To be announced

call [703-792-7747](tel:703-792-7747) or email master_gardener@pwcgov.org

Saturday in the Garden

April 22, .May 6 , June 17, July 15, August 19, Sep 9 and Oct. 21

call [703-792-7747](tel:703-792-7747) or email master_gardener@pwcgov.org

Sneak Peak

Saturday, February 18

Eco-Savvy Symposium ;Cultivating Biodiversity in the Home Garden

Time: 9am -1pm

Location: Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Rd, Alexandria, VA.

Plant and animal biodiversity is critical to a healthy ecosystem. Learn from renowned public designer Bill McLaughlin of the U.S. Botanic Garden and expert local Arlington County naturalist and environmental educator Alonso Abugattas how to create a home landscape that provides an oasis for birds, pollinators and other wildlife through the use of native plants. A panel discussion on the use of native plants in the landscape follows the presentations \$56/person. [Please register online:](#)

Mountains 101: Online Course

Online course begins February 7

Mountains 101 is a broad and integrated overview of the mountain world. This 12-lesson course covers an interdisciplinary field of study focusing on the physical, biological, and human dimensions of mountain places in Alberta, Canada, and around the world. Specifically, we'll study the geological origins of mountains, how they're built-up and worn-down over time; we'll learn about their importance for biodiversity and water cycles, globally and locally; we'll explore their cultural significance to societies around the globe, and how that relationship has evolved over time; and we'll learn how mountains are used, how they're protected, and how today they're experiencing rapid change in a warming climate. [Sign-up for free on Coursera.](#)

**12 Steps to a Greener Lawn / Building Environmental Sustainable Turf -BEST
Lawns Programs**

For more information on these low cost research based program for lawn education, contact: bestlawns@pwcgov.org or call 703792-4037.

Stormwater Management Education Site Visits

For businesses and non-profits, landscaping and turf management, stormwater pond management, wildlife concerns, recommendations for maintaining landscapes, protecting water quality and pollution prevention. Call [703-792-6285](tel:703-792-6285) to schedule a free visit.

Become a Virginia Master Naturalist

The Master Naturalist are a core of volunteers that perform service to manage and protect natural areas through activities such as plant and animal surveys, stream monitoring, trail rehabilitation, and teaching in nature centers. Applications are now open for the basic training course and that trains new volunteers to become Master Naturalist. Topics covered include ecology, geology, soils, native flora and fauna,

habitat management and more.

For more information visit:

Fairfax Master Naturalist Chapter at [FMN website](#).

Merrimac Farm Master Naturalist. <http://merrimacfarmvmn.weebly.com/>



Projects in your Backyard

...aimed at improving Prince William Watersheds

Prince William Soil & Water Conservation District: [Visit](#)

Prince William County Government: [Visit](#)

Prince William Native Plant Society: [Visit](#)

Prince William Master Gardeners: [Visit](#)

Prince William Trails and Streams Coalition [Visit](#)

Prince William Conservation Alliance: [Visit](#)

Active Prince William: [Visit](#)

Friends of Occoquan [Visit](#)

Keep Prince William Beautiful: [Visit](#)

Northern Virginia Soil & Water Conservation District: [Visit](#)

Plant NOVA Natives: [Visit](#)

Trees Virginia: [Visit](#)

Virginia Master Naturalist: [Visit](#)

...aimed at improving the Chesapeake Bay

Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay: [Visit](#)

Audubon Naturalist Society: [Visit](#)

Chesapeake Bay Foundation: [Visit](#)

Clean Virginia Waterways: [Visit](#)

Department of Environmental Quality: [Visit](#)

Department of Conservation and Recreation's: [Visit](#)

Environmental Protection Agency: [Visit](#)

Trashnetwok-Alice Ferguson Foundation: [Visit](#)

National Park Service: [Visit](#)

Virginia Citizen for Water Quality: [Visit](#)

Virginia Save Our Streams: [Visit](#)

Virginia Water Monitoring Council: [Visit](#)

Virginia Green Travel Alliance: [Visit](#)



2016 IWLA Clean Water Report:

Based on state reports to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA), more than half (55%) of the streams and rivers states tested were not safe for designated uses such as swimming, fishing, and as sources of drinking water.

The Commonwealth State of Virginia stood out in its involvement in citizen volunteer water

quality monitoring programs to work more closely with the Department of Environmental Quality(DEQ). For more information on the results, please [visit](#):

Potomac Basin News and updates: [Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin: Visit](#)

How can you help Prince William County have good water quality?

***Volunteer** for the Save Our Streams Citizen Science program.

***Adopt a stream** of your choice or work with existing sites

* **Monitor** only 3 times a year - spring, summer and fall.

* **Get monitoring equipment** once you become certified.

* **Track your volunteer hours** working for the District.

***Volunteer** in the District's **Stream Cleanup programs**.

>>*Volunteer timesheet is available. Ask your monitoring coordinators*<<

<*Water quality monitoring also counts towards Virginia Master Naturalists service hours*>

For all Monitoring events updates/cancellation visit:

[PWSWCD Facebook page](#)



**For more Environmental Awareness and to "Help Do Water Good",
like [PWSWCD Facebook page](#)**

Call to Action!

[Share this Newsletter with Friends](#)

[Join Now!](#)

See whats happening on our social sites!



Thanks again for making a difference!

Prince William Soil & Water Conservation District is funded by Prince William County Public Works Department, Stormwater Management Branch, and through financial and administrative assistance provided by the Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Board, and the Department of Conservation and Recreation, Division of Soil and Water Conservation.

Programs, activities and employment opportunities are available to all people regardless of race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, or political affiliation. Prince William Soil and Water Conservation District is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer.

PWSWCD, 8850 Rixlew Lane , Manassas, VA 20109, Ph.: 571-379-7514 ,Fax: 571-379-8305